

# BarringtonHillsConservationTrust

17 Oakdene Road East, Barrington Hills IL 60010

November 15, 2007

Ms. Victoria J. Rutson  
Chief, Section of Environmental Analysis  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20423-0001

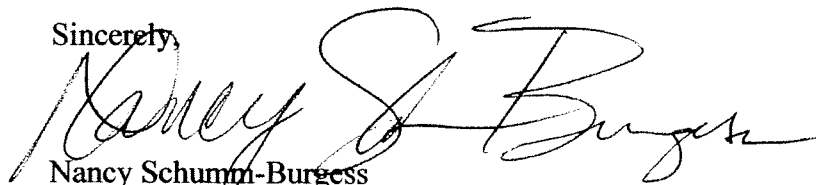
Dear Ms. Rutson:

I am currently the Executive Director of the Barrington Hills Conservation Trust in the Barrington, Illinois area. In my capacity as Executive Director, I have been working to preserve and protect the open land, rural character, and the scenic, historic, recreational and ecologically significant resources of the greater Barrington Area. We depend heavily on the protection of the quality of life in this area. That quality includes; **lack of noise, low traffic, safety at grade crossings and minimum interference in traffic flow.**

It has come to my attention that Canadian National Railway Company seeks to acquire the Elgin, Joliet, & Eastern Railway Co, which operates a rail line that runs through the Barrington area. I write to urge the Surface Transportation Board to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for this transaction. The transaction will have a significant impact on the quality of life in our area for all of the above listed reasons. Only the rigorous review required by the EIS process will develop alternatives and mitigation procedures sufficient to limit that impact. This review should include impacts of the transaction further into the future than the three years Canadian National currently estimates.

If the Board does not require an EIS, we will not have the information necessary to prevent a severe degradation in the local environment. Moreover, the EIS should look further into the future than the three years for which CN has estimated traffic increases; such a shortsighted view does not take into account major changes expected in our region for future generations. The SEA should immediately begin developing a scope of study for a draft EIS that emphasizes the impact on our open land, rural character and environmental sensitive areas. I look forward to further correspondence with SEA and the Board on the EIS process.

Sincerely,



Nancy Schumm-Burgess  
Executive Director